

RINGS OF FIRE AUGUST 12/13 2006 RESULTS

"... an active, hardy race and peculiarly adapted for the wild mountains and barren moors of Galloway."

(Smith, S *Agricultural Survey of Galloway* (1810) p272)

This is an old reference to the breed of blackface sheep which are still to be found, along with the wild goats, in the Galloway Hills, although it is also an appropriate description of those who took part in this year's Rings.

We were fortunate to have dry, cool but bright weather for both days which made for easy navigation, but the tussocks, rock and heather still present an energy sapping and soul testing challenge. Try running at an average speed of even 3 mph in Galloway.

BRUCE'S CROWN

Remarkably, there were four finishers who completed on the Saturday, but even they found the 40 miles of Bruce's Crown to be a difficult challenge. After more than eleven hours, Alec Keith and Stephen Pyke finished together, followed by Tim Laney and then Yiannis Tridimas.

Bruce's Crown has always involved an element of strategy; do you continue from the bivvy site on Carmaddie Braes and tire over the final 10 miles, or do you lose some time by stopping at Carmaddie but starting again, after an overnight stay, feeling rested and fed? Colin Brash, an experienced Crowner, chose to bivvy and so was able to finish third overall on the basis of nett time.

HEART OF GRANITE

The Heart of Granite race saw Adam Anderson navigate with no errors, unlike 2004, and so gain a very deserved victory in just over 6 hours. Very few have defeated the six hour barrier. There were more retirees on the Heart of Granite than Bruce's Crown; the legendary tussocks and some mistakes with map reading soon drain the soul of the unprepared. (Advice from organiser - draw straight lines between the control circles on the map - you'll then do them in the correct order.)

Most of those who took part knew that we could not use the summit areas of the Merrick, Corserine and Carlin's Cairn because of restrictions imposed by Scottish Natural Heritage, so it was offensively discriminating to see quad bikes and a trail bike on the Rhinns of Kells, while Rings competitors were compelled to contour round these marvellous tops.

Apologies are perhaps due to anyone who believed that there was 'tax-deductible' rest time at Gala Lane and Carmaddie Braes, outwith the bivvy time. I changed the rules to try to simplify them for the Montrail competitors, but the new wording may have been ambiguous and misled some. Mea culpa.

This was the last occasion on which I shall be organising the Rings. Those who have taken part over the years have my respect and admiration for the endurance and fortitude they possess to tackle what the originator Glyn Jones once mildly described as "A long day out in the hills." Some day, some hills.

BRUCE'S CROWN: 42 FLAT EARTH MILES (09.05 START) 2006

NAME	CLUB	DEE BRIG	GALA LANE IN OUT	CARMADDIE IN OUT	SLUICE OF ENOCH	FINISH TIME	GROSS TIME	REST TIME	NETT TIME	PLACE
ALEC KEITH^	HBT	11.47	15.04 /	17.49 /	18.45	20.41	11.36	/	11.36	1=
STEPHEN PYKE^	STAFF	11.47	15.20 /	18.05 /	19.00?	20.41	11.36	/	11.36	1=
COLIN BRASH	GIRVAN	11.47	15.34 /	18.50 06.29	07.26	08.57	23.52	11.39	12.13	3
TIM LANEY^	MONTR	11.50	15.54 /	19.16 /	20.30	22.56	13.51	/	13.51	4
DOUGLAS BROWN^	DUMFR	11.59	17.19 04.37	07.34 /	08.44	10.39	25.34	11.18	14.16	5
YIANNIS TRIDIMAS^^	BOWL	11.59	16.24 /	19.46 /	?	23.32	14.27	/	14.27	6
ANDREW CROWTHER	UNATT	12.35	17.26 04.55	07.47 /	09.00	11.22	26.17	11.29	14.48	7
SIMON BERRY	BETA	12.50	18.04 04.31	07.48 /	09.19	11.46	26.41	10.27	16.14	8
RICHARD BELLARIES^	CLAYT	12.16	17.33 /	22.15 05.31	07.04	09.51	24.46	7.16	17.30	9=
SIMON HALLIDAY	CLAYT	12.16	17.33 /	22.15 05.31	07.04	09.51	24.46	7.16	17.30	9=
COLIN HUTT	CARNE	12.16	17.33 /	22.15 05.31	07.04	09.51	24.46	7.16	17.30	9=
MATTHEW KOWALSKI-HICKS	MACCL- ESFIELD	13.01	18.57 04.05	07.45 /	09.19	11.46	26.41	9.08	17.33	12
GAVIN STEWART	MERCIA	13.01	18.57 04.05	07.45 /	09.19	11.56	26.51	9.08	17.43	13
IAN MURGATROYD*^	SOLWA	11.25	17.05 04.47	07.58 /	09.52	12.44	29.44	11.42	18.02	14
JULIAN BROWN^	MONTR	12.50	18.04 04.43	08.44 /	10.52	14.03	28.58	10.39	18.19	15
ALISON BRIND^	LDWA	13.15	20.39 04.40	08.44 /	10.52	14.03	28.58	8.01	20.57	16=
JULIE GARDNER^	D PEAK	13.15	20.39 04.40	08.44 /	10.52	14.03	28.58	8.01	20.57	16=
PHILIP MUSSON*	LDWA	11.54	18.23 /	23.49 06.23	08.03	10.59	27.59	6.34	21.25	18=
JOHN VERNON*^	D PEAK	11.54	18.23 /	23.49 06.23	08.03	10.59	27.59	6.34	21.25	18=
JIM DRUMMOND*^	CENTR	12.35	20.29 04.02	08.56 /	11.12	15.12	32.12	7.33	24.39	20
NICK GORDON	UNATT	11.25	17.08 /	/ /	/	/	/	/	/	/
OZZY KERSHAW^	UNATT	11.25	16.34 /	/ /	/	/	/	/	/	/
DAVID WAIDE^	MERCIA	11.50	/ /	/ /	/	/	/	/	/	/
PHILIP GWILLIAM	LDWA	13.17	/ /	/ /	/	/	/	/	/	/

NOTES (1) *EARLY STARTS: AT 07.00 = JIM DRUMMOND, JOHN VERNON, PHILIP MUSSON, IAN MURGATROYD, NICK GORDON, OZZY KERSHAW

(2) ^ = VET ^^ = SUPERVET

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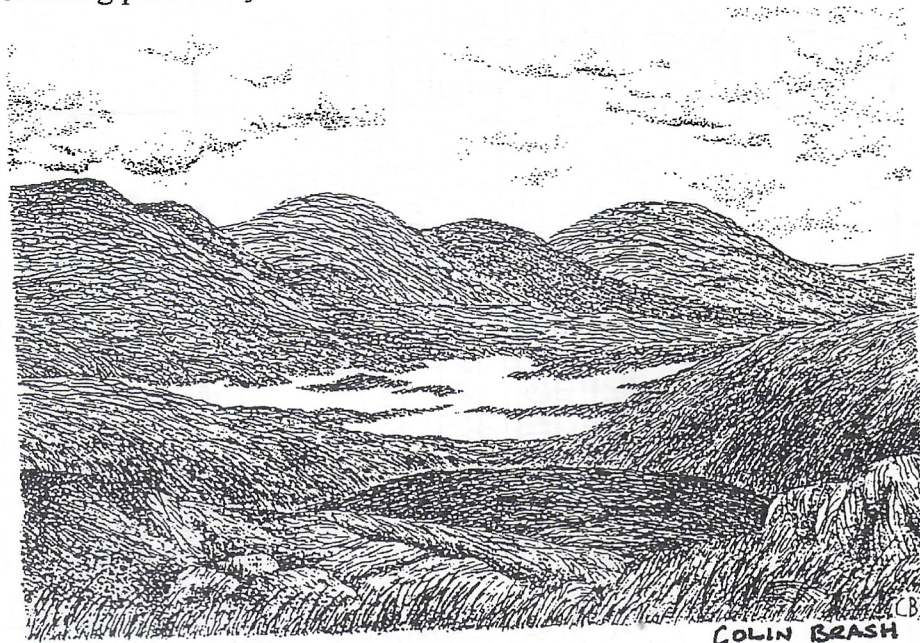
RETIRALS: ROBERT SINCLAIR, PAM NIX, SAM REID, SCOTT MCNEIL, ALISTAIR MCGARRY, JOHN FLEMING, BRIAN DAVEY,
MIKE DENNER
NOTES (1) ^ = VET

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This gives me the opportunity to say thank you publicly to the devoted and selfless team who work to put on the Rings. Without them there would be no event. I hope that there are no omissions from the roll of honour below:

- Bob Peace for putting out and then collecting controls on the Rhinns of Kells, for his advice about control sites on the Rhinns and for manning Dee Brig
- Sandy White of Forest Enterprise for his unfailing help and assistance in promoting the event over the years
- Alan Whiteside and the Minnigaff Scouts for manning the Sluice of Enoch
- Glyn Jones for collecting controls and his assistance at Registration and his advice over many years about the event
- Archie Wylie for manning the Loch Dee road crossing
- Rosanne and Iain Service of Moorpark of Barr for their outstanding hospitality during the week before the event
- David and Leslie Martin for their hard work and support at Gala Lane, even though they have just gained a new baby daughter
- Peter and Liz Foulds for collecting controls and providing many items of equipment
- John Colquhoun for travelling from Ayr to man the Sluice of Enoch
- Ray McCutcheon for help at registration and collecting controls
- the Dumfries and Galloway RAYNET team who provide essential radio cover - it keeps the insurers happy, and gives the organiser peace of mind. The team were led by John McCulloch and were able to show off their new hi-tech communications equipment and base station.

And thank you to all who have supported the Rings over the past fifteen years, either by helping or taking part. Are you all mad?



COLIN BRASH

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